

Santa Margarita Catholic's "Little Women" leaves audiences cheering, 'Christopher Columbus!' written by Alicia Barris, a sophomore at Beckman High School

Little Women tells the story of the March sisters and their coming of age. The sisters learn not only about who they are, but about what it means to them to be a family.

Charlize Goubran has an excellent stage presence and takes control of the stage as Jo. Goubran is not afraid to take up space with loud, bold choices, which are neatly balanced with moments of truthfulness and sincerity. Amy and Meg (played by Olivia Bullock and Lilia Palda, respectively) provide contrast as the youngest and eldest sisters. Bullock leaves the audience laughing with her childish ways, then shows Amy's growth as she matures and settles down in the second act. Palda acts with grace, demonstrating Meg's warm, caring ways and love for her sisters. Jasmine Ortiz wonderfully portrays Beth, the quietest of the sisters, and leaves the audience devastated by her passing in the second act. The March family is rounded out by Marmee, played by Jorja Garrett, who clearly conveys the pride she has for each of her daughters and how she takes wonderful care of each of them.

The production also features many standout performances from the supporting cast. Ryan Nouri gives a charming performance as Laurie, the best friend to Jo and eventual husband to Amy. Anna Sprague sternly portrays Aunt March, a wealthy widow who seems to loom over Jo and her sisters. Sienna Sleichter showcases her comedic skills as Mrs. Moffett, a pushy mother who just wants the best for her daughter.

The show's costume design, led by Julia Plush, distinctly shows off aspects of each character, with each of the four March sisters being assigned their own color to relate to their personalities. The costume team masterfully handles the many quick changes in the show, as well as the hair and makeup team handling the wig changes. The set design, led by Elizabeth Boyer and Isabella Berkman, features a rotating set used as both the Laurence household and Mrs. Kirke's home. The set team does a particularly good job showcasing this rotating set during the New Year's Eve ball scene, in which the set is turned multiple times to show the audience what's happening in different parts of the party.

Santa Margarita Catholic's Little Women tells a touching story of growth, family, and the importance of both love and kindness.